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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
ROBERT BUCKINGHAM et al. : Examiner Carolyn A. Paden
Serial No.: 09/782,314 : Group Art Unit: 1761
Filed: February 14, 2001 :
For: METHOD OF PROCESSING :
ROASTED COFFEE :

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DEC - 9 2002
TC 1100 MAIL ROOM

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated September 26, 2002, the time for response to which is set to expire on December 26, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 13 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 15 and 16 to read as follows:

2. A method of processing roasted coffee to improve the retention of carbon dioxide and aromatics liberated from the roasted coffee, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) preparing one or more containers for receiving coffee therein;
- (ii) purging said containers of contained air through flushing said containers with an inert gas;